



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 7, 2018

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Corey:

This letter is in response to your letter of April 2, 2018, submitting the quantitative milestone report dated March 2018, which provides California's demonstration that all measures found in the fine particulate matter serious area attainment plan for the Los Angeles – South Coast Air Basin (Serious Area Plan) are being implemented and that the quantitative milestones identified in the Serious Area Plan have been met (2017 Quantitative Milestone Report). Section 189(c)(2) of the *Clean Air Act* and 40 CFR 51.1013(b) require the state to submit such a quantitative milestone report no later than 90 days after each milestone date. The Serious Area Plan was submitted on April 27, 2017, and provides information on the quantitative milestones to be met by December 31, 2017.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the 2017 Quantitative Milestone Report is adequate. The basis for this determination is set forth in the enclosure. This determination is based on the EPA's review of information contained in the Serious Area Plan and additional information provided in the 2017 Quantitative Milestone Report.

This determination of adequacy for the 2017 Quantitative Milestone Report does not constitute an approval of any component of the Serious Area Plan. The EPA will evaluate and take action on the Serious Area Plan through a separate notice-and-comment rulemaking.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Adams, Acting Air Division Director, EPA Region 9, at (415) 972-3183, or your staff may contact Wienke Tax at (415) 947-4192.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Wheeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew R. Wheeler
Acting Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD

EPA Evaluation of 2017 *Quantitative Milestone Report*

OVERVIEW

Section 189(c) of the *Clean Air Act* (CAA) requires that attainment plans for all fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) nonattainment areas contain quantitative milestones that (1) demonstrate reasonable further progress (RFP) and (2) are to be achieved every three years until the area is redesignated to attainment. For all areas designated nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS before January 15, 2015, the starting point for the first three-year period for quantitative milestones under CAA section 189(c) is December 31, 2014, and the first quantitative milestone date is December 31, 2017.¹

Section 189(c)(2) of the CAA requires each state containing a PM_{2.5} nonattainment area to submit, not later than 90 days after the date on which a milestone applicable to the area occurs, a demonstration that all measures in the approved state implementation plan (SIP) have been implemented and that the milestone has been met. We refer to these submissions as “quantitative milestone reports.” Under the EPA’s implementation rule for the PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS),² each quantitative milestone report submitted by a state must include, at minimum: (1) a certification by the Governor or Governor’s designee that the SIP control strategy is being implemented consistent with the RFP plan, as described in the applicable attainment plan; (2) technical support, including calculations, sufficient to document completion statistics for appropriate milestones and to demonstrate that the quantitative milestones have been satisfied and how the emissions reductions achieved to date compare to those required or scheduled to meet RFP; and (3) a discussion of whether the area will attain the applicable PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the projected attainment date for the area.³

This enclosure contains the EPA’s evaluation of the first quantitative milestone report submitted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB or the State) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (the District) for the Los Angeles – South Coast PM_{2.5} nonattainment area, which is classified as Serious nonattainment for the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS. CARB and the District elected to base the first QMs for these NAAQS on the achievement of specified amounts of emission reductions by the end of 2017 through implementation of existing control measures. The *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report* confirms that these control measures are in effect and provides information on the emission reductions achieved by these measures, consistent with the RFP demonstration in the Serious Area Plan. Based on this evaluation, we find that the *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report* adequately demonstrates that the December 31, 2017 milestones have been met.

LOS ANGELES-SOUTH COAST AREA CONTROL STRATEGY AND RFP PLAN

State and District Control Measures identified in Quantitative Milestone Report

¹ 40 CFR 51.1013(a)(4).

² 81 FR 58010 (August 24, 2016) (codified at 40 CFR part 51, subpart Z).

³ 40 CFR 51.1013(b).

The table below lists the State and District control measures that contribute to RFP and attainment in the Serious Area Plan by achieving reductions in emissions of direct PM_{2.5} and its precursor pollutants (NO_x, SO_x, VOCs, and ammonia) from 2012 base year emission levels.

State or District Control Measure	EPA approval date	FR cite
South Coast Rule 444	9/26/2013	78 FR 59249
South Coast Rule 445	9/26/2013	78 FR 59249
South Coast Rule 1111	3/9/2016	81 FR 17390
South Coast Rule 1121	5/6/2009	74 FR 20880
South Coast Rule 1146	9/25/2014	79 FR 57442
South Coast Rule 1146.1	9/25/2014	79 FR 57442
South Coast Rule 1146.2	12/5/2008	73 FR 74027
South Coast Rule 1110.2	4/7/2009	74 FR 18995
South Coast Rule 1147	12/28/2016	81 FR 95472
South Coast Rule 1113	3/26/2013	78 FR 18244
South Coast Rule 1114	1/20/2015	80 FR 2609
South Coast Rule 1177	1/3/2014	79 FR 365
South Coast Rule 223	7/3/2015	80 FR 39966
South Coast Rule 1127	5/23/2013	78 FR 30768
On-Road Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles (In-Use) Regulation	4/4/2012	77 FR 20308
Advanced Clean Cars Program	6/16/2016	81 FR 39424
In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation	6/16/2016	81 FR 39424

EPA'S EVALUATION OF THE 2017 QUANTITATIVE MILESTONE REPORT

(1) Certification by the Governor or Governor's Designee

40 CFR 51.1013(b)(1): The quantitative milestone report must include certification by the Governor or Governor's designee that the state's attainment plan control strategy is being implemented as described in the applicable attainment plan.

CARB submitted the *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report* by letter dated April 2, 2018, from Richard W. Corey, the California Governor's designee for submitting SIPs to the EPA. That letter confirms that the *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report* documents the state's and district's implementation of control measures consistent with the control strategy in the submitted Serious Area Plan. We find this letter adequate to meet this requirement.

(2) QM Report Technical Support

40 CFR 51.1013(b)(2): The quantitative milestone report must contain technical support, including calculations, sufficient to document completion statistics for appropriate milestones and to demonstrate that the quantitative milestones have been satisfied and how the emissions reductions achieved to date compare to those required or scheduled to meet RFP.

CARB and the District elected to base the 2017 quantitative milestones in the Serious Area Plan on specific amounts of emissions reductions reflected in the emissions inventory, which are achieved through implementation of the RFP control strategy. The *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report* identifies the 2017 RFP emissions targets for direct PM_{2.5} and all precursor pollutants (NO_x, SO_x, VOC, and ammonia) in the Serious Area Plan and provides quantitative information demonstrating that those emissions targets have been met through implementation of the RFP control strategy. Additionally, the report discusses the implementation status of each of the primary control measures for direct PM_{2.5} and precursor pollutants (NO_x, SO_x, VOC, and ammonia) that achieved the necessary emission reductions, including explanations of any rule amendments that may have resulted in minor differences between 2017 emissions levels and the projections provided in the Serious Area Plan. We find the report adequate to meet this requirement.

(3) Attainment by the Applicable Attainment Date

40 CFR 51.1013(b)(3): The quantitative milestone report must include a discussion of whether the PM_{2.5} NAAQS will be attained by the projected attainment date for the area.

Based on the information provided in the *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report*, CARB and the District conclude that the emission reductions needed to demonstrate RFP have been achieved, that the 2017 quantitative milestones have been met, and thus that ongoing progress is being made to attain by the December 31, 2019 attainment date.

CONCLUSION

Based on these evaluations, we have determined that the *2017 Quantitative Milestone Report* contains each of the required components and adequately demonstrates that the South Coast area's 2017 quantitative milestones for purposes of the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS have been met.